

# District Offered Programs

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

Students who reside within the district boundaries and live within a school’s transportation zone may be bused to school. Students accepted into Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy may arrange bus transportation from any of the zones. [www.laveenschools.org/transportation](http://www.laveenschools.org/transportation)

## CHILD NUTRITION

Proper nutrition is important for growing bodies and growing minds. As part of the National School Lunch Program, students are guaranteed a healthy breakfast and lunch that are rich in whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. Breakfast and lunch are provided at no charge to all students.



[www.laveenschools.org/child-nutrition](http://www.laveenschools.org/child-nutrition)

## PRESCHOOL

Preschool is available for students ages three to five years old at select sites. Certified teachers teach the academically-based program to prepare children for kindergarten. Preschool programs are designed to provide developmentally appropriate social, educational, and physical experiences that enhance the child as a whole. Preschool is tuition-based.

[www.laveenschools.org/preschool](http://www.laveenschools.org/preschool)

## FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Students who are five years old by August 31 of each year may enroll in full day kindergarten. Children who reach age five by December 31 may be tested and accepted based on level of readiness. There is no fee to attend. [www.laveenschools.org/kindergarten](http://www.laveenschools.org/kindergarten)

## BEFORE/ AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Kids Club offers carefully planned, well-supervised activities for children in grades K-6. Activities are designed to not only interest your child, but also foster his/her emotional well-being and social, physical, and critical thinking skills. Activities include games, sports, hands-on science, arts and crafts, and music. Time is set aside for homework assistance and snacks are provided. Kids Club is licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services. Camps during school breaks are also available.

[www.laveenschools.org/kids-club](http://www.laveenschools.org/kids-club)

## GIFTED EDUCATION

Laveen’s Gifted Education Program provides services for students with superior intellect or advanced learning ability who require differentiated educational programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program to achieve at levels commensurate with the child’s intellect and ability. Because not all gifted students are alike, program modifications for gifted students are sufficiently varied and flexible so as to provide challenging learning experiences and appropriate resources. [www.laveenschools.org/gifted-education](http://www.laveenschools.org/gifted-education)

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education is available for students found to be eligible for and in need of Special Education services. The school provides Special Education according to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which provides a free and appropriate public education. Screening for preschool-aged children is available on scheduled dates throughout the year. [www.laveenschools.org/student-services](http://www.laveenschools.org/student-services)



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<http://desertmeadows.laveenschools.org>







### About our Program

Through creative coding and computational thinking, Desert Meadows students learn how to problem solve and think. Computer programming is implemented across all grade levels.

Preschool and kindergarten students learn the fundamental skills of coding. Students explore algorithms (steps to a process) and programming through hands-on activities.

In Grades 1-2, students are introduced to Code.org’s Fundamentals program and make coding connections within their core content areas. Students begin writing algorithms and programs that contain loops and sequences to solve a problem.

Students in Grades 3-5 experience coding and computational thinking through a variety of devices, hardware, and software programs. Students will write programs following a specific sequence, using loops and variables to solve problems and create projects that integrate core subject standards and topics.

In Grades 7-8, students taking Computer Science Discoveries follow a curriculum to engage with computer science concepts as a means for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and fun. Students will learn beginner HTML and CSS code to create multi-page websites. They also learn “drag and drop” JavaScript coding to create animations and games. Students explore real-world scenarios involving computer programming, data, and physical computing.

## Core Curriculum

### MATH

Arizona’s Mathematics Standards require students to demonstrate a deep understanding of math and develop strong critical thinking skills. Laveen’s adopted mathematics curriculum is Eureka Math<sup>2</sup>. This rigorous program is aligned to Arizona’s Mathematics Standards and includes both traditional and digital formats. Advanced coursework, including access to high school level algebra and geometry, is offered at all schools.



### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Arizona’s English Language Arts Standards call for an integrated approach to teaching reading, writing, language, speaking and listening. Laveen strives to promote literacy across all of the content areas, exposing students to a rich balance of fiction and nonfiction texts. Students read selections from a wide range of text types and integrate research, writing and media skills through technology. Laveen’s ELA curriculum includes Savvas ReadyGen for Grades K-5 and McGraw-Hill’s StudySync for Grades 6-8. Both programs feature traditional and digital learning platforms.

### SCIENCE

Discovery Education Science connects students to their inner curiosity by placing them at the center of each three-dimensional learning experience. The curriculum engages students in authentic investigations to uncover the mysteries of the universe. Hands-on and virtual investigations, STEM activities, and a variety of science resources are provided to support all levels of learners. Science Techbook and Middle School Science meets both Arizona’s Science Standards as well as the Next Generation Science Standards. These programs feature traditional and digital learning platforms.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

The Arizona History and Social Science Standards build across grade levels in a progression of knowing and applying concepts aligned to history, government, geography, and economics. To support this progression, Teacher’s Curriculum Institute (TCI) social studies is provided in 6th-8th grades and integrates proven teaching strategies, engaging content, and meaningful technology. Students in Grades 1-4 use McGraw-Hill’s Impact Social Studies and 5th graders use McGraw-Hill’s Discovering our Past: United Studies, Arizona Edition. These programs provide rigorous learning experiences to help them understand the world around them. These programs feature traditional and digital learning platforms.

### CHARACTER EDUCATION

Desert Meadows is a PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) school where our students stay on T.R.A.C.K. The program teaches students to be Trustworthy, Respectful, Accountable, Collaborative, and Kind. Students who exhibit positive behaviors are often rewarded with “Bobcat Blasts” and Bobcat Bucks which can be redeemed for prizes in the Bobcat Store.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

In addition to the academic experience Desert Meadows students receive, there are also several opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, Robotics, Media Club, Game Design, Girls who Code, and intramural sports are among just a few opportunities in which our students can participate.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Desert Meadows PTSA is responsible for many of the activities and fundraising programs on our campus. Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time on the PTSA’s various committees to help support our school.

### TECHNOLOGY

Thanks to the support of Laveen’s community, the district has a 1:1 student-to-computer ratio providing each student with a device that they can use daily. The devices complement the district’s core curriculum, which all have digital platforms, allowing students access to instructional materials and resources online. Arizona’s academic standards require students to use technology to research, collaborate, and demonstrate their learning. All students have user accounts which can be accessed from both school and at home to share documents and projects with other students and the teacher.

*“Programming helps children learn to problem solve. Coding teaches children how to think. A child expands their creativity when they learn how to code. Computer programming is the future. Coding is learning while having fun!”*  
-J.P. Ketcham, Principal

### REGISTRATION

Families may enroll in Desert Meadows regardless of where they reside, space permitting.

Families may enroll their children using our secure online portal or by downloading and completing a paper registration packet available at [www.LaveenSchools.org/registration](http://www.LaveenSchools.org/registration) or in the school’s front office.

